

# It's All In The Family

By Steve Vacek, Mississippi River Project

A privilege and gift provided to the Mississippi River Project, in terms of volunteer activities, doesn't bestow itself too often, but the Project has been blessed with

recently retired. Haggard is not a native Quad Citian, but was born in Mercer, Mo. He and his wife, Barbara, who recently celebrated 49 years of marriage, moved to the Cities in 1953 after he served his country during the Korean Conflict.

For the first couple of years in the area, he worked at Alcoa and Riverside Foundry, and then started his 30-year career at John Deere Harvester. While there, he worked as a "machine set-up man." His experiences and expertise he accrued have been helpful in performing his volunteer responsibilities.

As a volunteer

at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, Haggard's responsibilities expanded to include assisting with special events and activities. He always lends a hand and assists where the need presents itself. Haggard rarely declines an offer to help with a special event such as Armed Forces Day, fishing clinics, open houses, water safety fairs and events and displays held in malls and exhibit areas.

He is dedicated to performing every task completely, and making sure the job is done right. This is a perfect reflection of his day-to-day work ethic. Another important point to make, is that throughout his volunteer career at the Center, he has only missed one day of work!

Now for "the rest of the story."

Having Haggard as a volunteer is a great addition to the Center's operational activities and has provided the Mississippi

River Project with a volunteer that we are proud to have as a member of our team. Haggard also provided a "pool" of other family members. His family has provided numerous volunteer service hours to the project and to the District as well.

One of those family members is Haggard's grandson, Jason. His volunteer activities began in 1994 when he was only 14 years old.

Jason is currently in the Armed Forces serving his country in the Air Force. He began his military career in 1991 and is stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, located approximately eight miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nev. He is an Avionics Specialist and is responsible for working on the F-16 fighters that are attached to the Vipers Group. Jason is the son of Bill Haggard who resides in Moline, Ill.

His volunteer experience consisted of assisting with many special events. When a project called for a Woodsy the Owl costume, Jason was the person who spent many sweaty hours dressed as Woodsy, eagerly meeting and greeting the public, especially the younger children. He

also assisted with the yearly fishing clinics and Armed Forces Day celebrations. Like his grandfather, he accepted his volunteer responsibilities with a smile and provided the public with the "customer care" ethic that the Corps expects. During his volunteer career, he worked more than 200 hours.

Last but not least, a word of accomplishment and thanks needs to be made to Haggard's wife and Jason's



Photo by By Steve Vacek, Mississippi River Project

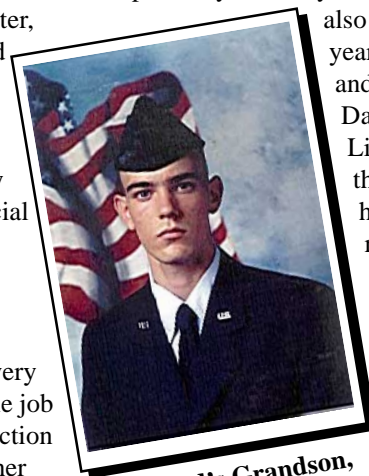
Haggard answers questions during a recent area fishing clinic in which he participated.

having this situation come to life.

This wonderful story began in 1991, when Mr. Richard Haggard, of East Moline, Ill., started his volunteer career with the Rock Island District. His story has not ended yet; he has worked more than 3,800 volunteer hours during his nine years of service, and the hours are still accumulating.

How time flies, I still remember the day Haggard and I discussed his volunteer roles and responsibilities. He would be assigned to work at the Mississippi River Visitor Center and assist with answering visitor's questions, taking care of brochure inventories and performing minor maintenance tasks. He welcomed these tasks with a zeal of youthful enthusiasm and looked forward to starting work.

During our interview, he described his past experiences and was looking forward to fulfilling his goals, since he had



Haggard's Grandson, Jason Haggard, now serving in the U.S. Air Force.



**Richard Haggard with his wife Barbara**

grandmother Barbara. She has spent many hours working behind the scenes; assisting Jason with the Woodsy costume

County.

In addition, he is the vice president of


and providing desserts and other "goodies" at many of the special events the Center provided.

Mr. and Mrs. Haggard are not only active with the volunteer activities at the Corps, but are involved with many community functions as well. They are both involved with, and spend much time with, the United Township Senior Group, where he was selected as President of the organization. They also work as Judges of Elections and are involved with the Court Watch Program for Rock Island

the South Moline Township Seniors, Head Deacon of his church and is a member of the school advisory board for the United Township.

Haggard, throughout his volunteer career, has touched many lives ... certainly mine. He has shown me what dedication to family and work is, and has demonstrated what it means to be a volunteer.

Thank you for your unending dedication and zeal that you devote to the Corps and the Project. What an accomplishment! All of the Corps family wishes the very best for you, your wife and Jason.

Keep up the great work. 

## Committee Addresses Future Engineering Shortfall

By Mark Kane, Public Affairs

*"Do you want a real adventure without going to boot camp?"*

This is one of the opening enticements the Rock Island District is using on its recruitment webpage targeted toward engineering graduates.

Recently, the District took a hard look at its engineering work force and came to the reality that many engineers will soon be collecting their retirement checks.

With the economy booming and companies fighting for some of the nation's top graduates, the Corps of Engineers has found itself competing with America's top agencies. In recognition of that, the District formed a recruitment committee to focus on the District's future engineering shortfall.

"The committee was originally formed to look at recruiting on a District basis, but then, after it got started, we realized that engineering had special needs," said Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid, Planning, Programs and Project Management. "In the next five years, 15 engineers will be eligible or coming up for retirement."

Kirkeeng-Kincaid is a member of the District's new recruitment committee, along with seven other employees who are addressing the future engineering needs of the District.

"This is an employee market, so the

committee's efforts turned toward this spring's engineering graduates, said Kirkeeng-Kincaid. "We're starting to provide literature and information at job fairs and at universities. That's where we'll be handing out a recruiting brochure that lists the District's recruitment website."

Although the committee is relatively new, it not only has a website, but it also has plans to create a recruiting CD.

"We plan to have video on those CDs such as the representative of that university promoting the Corps, said Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid. "We will be handing out the CDs, which will link to the website."




The recruitment committee has taken steps to get the most out of today's technology.

"Information Manage-

ment has also set up an E-Mail address where prospective employees will be able to send questions and it will automatically forward those questions to everyone on the team," said Kirkeeng-Kincaid.

The committee is mainly looking for full-time and permanent engineers as well as engineers to participate in the Corps' Student Career Experience Program, but also recruits in other Corps career fields.

"The committee is not only looking for engineers, but other job specialties," said Kirkeeng-Kincaid. "We try to make ourselves available to all hiring opportunities."

To ensure as many graduates as possible receive the Corps' message, the committee members have each been assigned a "beat" or specific college or university. 

**On the Internet:**

[www.mvr.usace.army.mil/recruitment](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/recruitment)

University of Wisconsin - Platteville  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
University of Illinois  
Michigan Tech  
University of Iowa  
Iowa State University  
Nebraska University  
Unspecified

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